DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 19 March 2008 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative Justas Geringson (Reg. No. 57,033) on 25 April 2008.

The application has been amended as follows: claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 17, 19-21, 23, 26, 27, 67, 72-75, 80-83, 86-88 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter.

A complete listing of all claims follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for managing access to files and sharing of files between users from remote client devices, the method comprising:

receiving an identifier from a first user of a first client device to an access server, the access server located behind a firewall in a network;

determining a remote file source associated with the identifier, ~~said~~ the remote file source being part of the network;

generating a list of ~~at least one~~ recently used ~~file~~ files associated with the file source and the identifier, ~~said~~ the recently used ~~file~~ files having been accessed previously by ~~said~~ the first user of the first client device;

presenting an interface enabling access to the list of ~~at least one~~ recently used ~~file~~ files by using ~~said~~ the first client device;

receiving, from the first user of the first client device, a request to share ~~the~~ a file from the list with a second user at a second client device wherein ~~said~~ the second user and second client device are outside of the firewall of ~~said~~ the network of the remote file source and the access server;

generating a proxy representation of ~~said~~ the file on the access server, the proxy representation including a file identifier and a set of credentials for ~~said~~ the first user that initiated the request to share the file;

transmitting a link to ~~said~~ the second user of the second ~~remote~~ client device in response to ~~said~~ the request to share the file, wherein ~~said~~ the link references at least one of: a cached copy of ~~said~~ the file stored on ~~said~~ the access server and the file identified by ~~said~~ the file identifier; and

accessing ~~said~~ the link by the second user of the second ~~remote~~ client device wherein ~~said~~ the accessing causes the access server to provide access to the cached

copy of the file if ~~said~~ the cached copy is stored on the access server, otherwise provide

access directly to the file identified by ~~said~~ the file identifier by using ~~said~~ the credentials

for the first user.

2. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising configuring

the interface for the viewing capacity of the first client device in order to enable access

to said recently used file by the user of said ~~remote~~ second client device.

3. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 2, wherein the first client device

is a laptop computer.

4. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 2, wherein the first client device

is a personal data assistant.

5. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 2, wherein the first client device

is a cellular telephone.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein generating the list of at least one

recently accessed file comprises receiving a list of at least one recently accessed file on

the file source.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the list of at least one recently accessed file comprises:

reading a time of last access for files stored on the file source; and

selecting a file according to its time of last access.

8. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein generating the list of at least one recently accessed file comprises:

determining an application available to the <u>first</u> user; and

receiving from the file source a list of at least one file associated with the application.

9. (Currently Amended)   A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to manage access to remote files and manage sharing of files between remote users, wherein the instructions, when executed by said processor, will carry out the steps of:

receiving an identifier from a first user of a first client device to an access server, the access server located behind a firewall in a network;

determining a remote file source associated with the identifier, ~~said~~ <u>the</u> remote file source being part of the network;

generating a list of ~~at least one~~ recently used ~~file~~ files associated with the file source and the identifier ~~said~~ the recently used ~~file~~ files having been accessed previously by ~~said~~ the first user of the first client device;

presenting an interface enabling access to the list of ~~at least one~~ recently used ~~file~~ files by using ~~said~~ the first client device;

receiving, from the first user of the first client device, a request to share ~~the~~ a file from the list with a second user at a second client device wherein ~~said~~ the second user and second client device are outside of the firewall of ~~said~~ the network of the remote file source and the access server;

generating a proxy representation of ~~said~~ the file on the access server, the proxy representation including a file identifier and credentials for ~~said~~ the first user;

transmitting a link to ~~said~~ the second user of the second ~~remote~~ client device in response to ~~said~~ the request to share the file, wherein ~~said~~ the link references at least one of: a cached copy of ~~said~~ the file stored on ~~said~~ the access server or the file identified by ~~said~~ the file identifier; and

accessing ~~said~~ the link by the second user of the second ~~remote~~ client device wherein ~~said~~ the accessing causes the access server to provide access to the cached copy of the file if ~~said~~ the cached copy is stored on the access server, otherwise provide access directly to the file identified by ~~said~~ the file identifier by using ~~said~~ the credentials for the first user.

10. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the instructions further comprise configuring the interface for the viewing capacity of the first client device in order to enable access to said recently used file by the first user of said first client device.

11. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the first client device is a laptop computer.

12. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the first client device is a personal data assistant.

13. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the first client device is a cellular telephone.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein generating the list of at least one recently accessed file comprises receiving a list of at least one recently accessed file on the file source.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein generating the list of at least one recently accessed file comprises:

reading a time of last access for files stored on the file source; and

selecting a file according to its time of last access.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein generating the list of at least one recently accessed file comprises:

determining an application available to the user and;

receiving from the file source a list of at least one file associated with the application.

17. (Currently Amended)   A method for transmitting electronic mail messages and sharing files between remote users, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between an access server and a remote client device;

determining a plurality of remote file sources associated with a user of ~~said~~ the remote client device and logging into each of ~~said~~ the plurality of remote file sources by the access server;

retrieving a set of files recently accessed by ~~said~~ the user from the plurality of remote file sources and generating a unified list of recently accessed files;

generating an electronic mail message interface and providing ~~said~~ the electronic mail message interface to ~~said~~ the user of the remote client device, wherein the electronic mail message interface includes the unified list of recently accessed files;

configuring the electronic mail message interface for the remote client device ~~of~~ ~~said~~ by the access server;

accepting a message from the remote client <u>device</u> by using the electronic mail message interface, wherein ~~said~~ <u>the</u> message includes a file <u>from the unified list</u> as an attachment, the file located on one of the remote file sources;

generating a proxy representation of the file in a shared location on the access server, the proxy representation containing credentials for the user;

inserting in the message a hyperlink associated with the shared location;

transmitting the message to ~~said~~ <u>a</u> remote recipient; and

accessing the hyperlink by ~~said~~ <u>the</u> remote recipient wherein ~~said~~ <u>the</u> accessing causes the access server to provide access directly to ~~said~~ <u>the</u> file by the access server logging into the remote file source using ~~said~~ <u>the</u> credentials in the proxy representation such that the recipient is enabled to modify the file on the remote file source.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein inserting the hyperlink in the message further includes adding a security token to the electronic mail message in order to ensure that only the recipient of said electronic mail message can access the cached copy in said shared location.

19. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 17, wherein the remote client <u>device</u> is a laptop computer.

20. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 17, wherein the remote client device is a personal data assistant.

21. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 17, wherein the remote client device is a cellular phone.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising transmitting the message to the remote recipient by said access server.

23. (Currently Amended)   A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to transmit electronic mail messages and sharing files between remote users, wherein the instructions when executed by said processor, will carry out the steps comprising:

establishing a connection between an access server and a remote client device;

determining a plurality of remote file sources associated with a user of said the remote client device and logging into each of said the plurality of remote file sources by the access server;

retrieving a set of files recently accessed by said the user from the plurality of remote file sources and generating a unified list of recently accessed files;

generating an electronic mail message interface and providing ~~said~~ the electronic mail message interface to ~~said~~ the user of the remote client device, wherein the electronic mail message interface includes the unified list of recently accessed files;

configuring the electronic mail message interface for the remote client device of ~~said~~ the access server;

accepting a message from the remote client device by using the electronic mail message interface, wherein ~~said~~ the message includes a file from the list as an attachment, the file located on one of the remote file sources;

~~accepting a message from the remote client, the message including a file as an attachment, the file located in one of the plurality of remote file sources;~~

generating a proxy representation of the file in a shared location on the access server, the proxy representation containing credentials for the user;

inserting in the message a hyperlink associated with the shared location;

transmitting the message to ~~the~~ a remote recipient; and

accessing the hyperlink by ~~said~~ the remote recipient wherein ~~said~~ the accessing causes the access server to provide access directly to ~~said~~ the file by the access server logging into the remote file source using ~~said~~ the credentials in the proxy representation such that the recipient is enabled to modify the file on the remote file source.

24. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the instructions for inserting the hyperlink in the message further include instructions for

adding a security token to the message in order to ensure that only a the remote

recipient of said message can access the file in said shared location.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

copying the file to a remote location;

wherein the hyperlink is associated with the remote location.

26. (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of claim 23, wherein

the remote client <u>device</u> is a personal data assistant.

27. (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of claim 23, wherein

the remote client <u>device</u> is a cellular phone.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the hyperlink

is associated with the file location.

29 – 62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the access server

uses the credentials of said first user stored in the proxy representation to retrieve the

file from the file source.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving one or more changes to said file from the second user; and

logging into the file source by the access server by using the credentials of the first user in the proxy representation and modifying an original version of the file stored in the file source to reflect the one or more changes made by the second user.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the proxy representation of the file at the access server further includes:

an identifier for the file source on which the file is stored;

a path and filename of said file on the file source;

a permissions indicator listing an identifier of the second user and a level of access granted to said second user; and

a location of said cached copy of the file.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the access server registers the second user prior to enabling access to the file.

67. (Currently Amended) A system for managing access to files and sharing access to files between remote users, said system comprising:

an access server that receives an identifier from a first user, determines a remote

file source associated with the identifier and generates a list of ~~at least one~~ recently

used ~~file~~ files associated with the file source and the identifier, ~~said~~ the recently used ~~file~~

files having been previously accessed by the user;

a first client device that connects to ~~said~~ the access server and allows the first

user access to the list of recently used files generated by the access server; and

a second client device having a second user;

wherein the access server receives, from the first user, a request to share ~~the~~ a

file from the list with the second user at the second client device wherein the first client

device and ~~said~~ the second client device are outside of a firewall of a network of the

remote file source;

wherein the access server generates a proxy representation of ~~said~~ the file that

includes a file identifier and credentials for ~~said~~ the first user;

wherein a link is transmitted to ~~said~~ the second user of the second ~~remote~~ client

device in response to ~~said~~ the request to share the file, wherein ~~said~~ the link references

at least one of: a cached copy of ~~said~~ the file stored on ~~said~~ the access server or the file

identified by ~~said~~ the file identifier; and

wherein the link is accessed by ~~said~~ the second user of the second client device

wherein ~~said~~ the accessing causes the access server to provide access to the cached

copy of the file if ~~said~~ the cached copy is stored on the access server, otherwise provide

access directly to the file identified by ~~said~~ the file identifier by using ~~said~~ the credentials

for the first user.

68. (Previously presented) The system of claim 67, wherein the access server uses the credentials of said first user stored in the proxy representation to retrieve the file from the file source.

69. (Previously presented) The system of claim 67 wherein the access server receives one or more changes to said file from the second user and logs into the file source by using the credentials of the first user in the proxy representation and modifies an original version of the file stored in the file source to reflect the one or more changes made by the second user.

70. (Previously presented) The system of claim 67, wherein the proxy representation of the file at the access server further includes:

an identifier for the file source on which the file is stored;

a path and filename of said file on the file source;

a permissions indicator listing an identifier of the second user and a level of access granted to said second user; and

a location of said cached copy of the file.

71. (Previously presented) The system of claim 67 wherein the access server registers the second user prior to enabling access to the file.

72. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 67 wherein the ~~remote~~ <u>first</u> client device is a laptop computer.

73. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 67 wherein the ~~remote~~ <u>first</u> client device is a cellular phone.

74. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 67 wherein the ~~remote~~ <u>first</u> client device is a personal digital assistant.

75. (Currently Amended)   A system for managing access to files and sharing access to files by remote users, said system comprising:

an access server that receives an identifier from a first user, determines a plurality of remote file sources associated with the identifier and generates a single unified list of recently used files associated with the identifier by automatically logging into each of the plurality of file sources on behalf of ~~said~~ <u>the</u> first user;

a first client device that connects to ~~said~~ <u>the</u> access server and allows the first user access to the unified list of recently used files generated by the access server; and

a second client device having a second user;

wherein the access server receives, from the first user, a request to share a file <u>from the unified list</u> with the second user at the second client device wherein the first

client and ~~said~~ the second client device are outside of a firewall of a network of the remote file source;

wherein the access server generates a proxy representation of ~~said~~ the file that includes a file identifier and credentials for ~~said~~ the first user;

wherein a link is transmitted to ~~said~~ the second user of the second ~~remote~~ client device in response to ~~said~~ the request to share the file, wherein ~~said~~ the link references at least one of: a cached copy of ~~said~~ the file stored on ~~said~~ the access server or the file identified by ~~said~~ the file identifier; and

wherein the link is accessed by ~~said~~ the second user of the second client device wherein ~~said~~ the accessing causes the access server to provide access to the cached copy of the file if ~~said~~ the cached copy is stored on the access server, otherwise provide access directly to the file identified by ~~said~~ the file identifier by using ~~said~~ the credentials for the first user.

76. (Previously presented) The system of claim 75, wherein the access server uses the credentials of said first user stored in the proxy representation to retrieve the file from the file source.

77. (Previously presented) The system of claim 75 wherein the access server receives one or more changes to said file from the second user and logs into the file source by using the credentials of the first user in the proxy representation and modifies

an original version of the file stored in the file source to reflect the one or more changes

made by the second user.

78. (Previously presented) The system of claim 75, wherein the proxy

representation of the file at the access server further includes:

an identifier for the file source on which the file is stored;

a path and filename of said file on the file source;

a permissions indicator listing an identifier of the second user and a level of

access granted to said second user; and

a location of said cached copy of the file.

79. (Previously presented) The system of claim 75 wherein the access server

registers the second user prior to enabling access to the file.

80. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 75 wherein the ~~remote~~ <u>first</u> client

device is a laptop computer.

81. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 75 wherein the ~~remote~~ <u>first</u> client

device is a cellular phone.

82. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 75 wherein the ~~remote~~ first client device is a personal digital assistant.

83. (Currently Amended)   A system for transmitting electronic mail messages and sharing files between remote users, said system comprising:

an access server that determines a plurality of remote file sources associated with a user, automatically logs into each of ~~said~~ the plurality of remote file sources and retrieves a unified list of recently accessed files by ~~said~~ the user;

a remote client <u>device</u> having an electronic mail message interface provided to ~~said~~ the user, wherein the electronic mail message interface includes the unified list of recently accessed files;

wherein the electronic mail message interface accepts a message including a file <u>from the unified list</u> as an attachment to ~~said~~ the message, the file located on one of the remote file sources;

wherein the access server generates a proxy that contains credentials for ~~said~~ <u>the</u> user;

wherein the access server inserts in the message a hyperlink associated with the proxy and wherein ~~said~~ the message is transmitted to ~~the~~ a remote recipient;

wherein the hyperlink is accessed by ~~said~~ the remote recipient, the accessing of the hyperlink causing the access server to provide access directly to ~~said~~ the file in ~~said~~

the remote file source by using the credentials in the proxy such that the remote

recipient is enabled to modify the file on the remote file source.

84. (Previously presented) The system of claim 83 wherein the access server

receives one or more changes from the remote recipient accessing the link and logs into

the file location by using credentials of the user and modifies an original version of the

file stored in a file location to reflect the one or more changes made by the remote

recipient.

85. (Previously presented) The system of claim 83 wherein the access server

registers the remote recipient prior to enabling access to the file.

86. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 83 wherein the remote client

device is a laptop computer.

87. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 83 wherein the remote client

device is a cellular phone.

88. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 83 wherein the remote client

device is a personal digital assistant.

Claims 1-28, 63-88 are allowed

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not disclose or make obvious managing access to files and sharing recently accessed files by a user with outside clients by generating a proxy representation of the files in a shared location, the proxy representation containing credentials for the user so that a client outside a firewall can access the files using the credentials of that user, in combination with all the limitations recited in independent claims 1, 9, 17, 23, 67, 75, 83.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Abdelmur et al (US 6,212,640) teach sharing resources in a network environment.

Graham et al (US 2002/0178271) teach dynamic file access control and management.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to UYEN T. LE whose telephone number is (571)272-4021. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Uyen T. Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2163
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